John Hamilton (actor)

For the American actor of 1893 - 1967, see John F. Hamilton.

John Rummel Hamilton (January 16, 1887 – October 15, 1958) was an American actor, who played in many movies and television programs. He is probably remembered best for his role as the blustery newspaper editor Perry White in the 1950s television program *Adventures of Superman*.

John Hamilton	
Born	John Rummel Hamilton January 16, 1887 Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.
Died	October 15, 1958 (aged 71) Glendale, California, U.S.
Years active	1930–1958
Known for	Fictional character Perry White in *Adventures of Superman* (1952–1958)
Spouse(s)	Elizabeth J. Greenhow (?-?) (divorced) (1 child)

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Biography

John Hamilton was born in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania to John M. Hamilton and his wife Cornelia J. (Hollar) Hamilton. Hamilton was the youngest of four children, and his mother died eight days after his birth. His father remarried and Rosa, his stepmother, was the only mother the young Hamilton knew.[1] Hamilton grew up in neighboring Southampton Township Pennsylvania, where his father worked as a store clerk.

Hamilton's father was also appointed Shippensburg's trustee for the State Superintendent of Public Education, so it was a foregone conclusion that Hamilton would receive extensive schooling. Unlike most others of his generation and background (Southampton being a farming community), Hamilton attended college–Dickinson College and Shippensburg State Teacher's College. However, he opted to forego teaching for a stage career

After becoming an actor, he worked in Broadway plays and in touring theatrical companies for many years prior to his 1930 movie debut. He was in the original Broadway company of the 1922 play *Seventh Heaven* and would appear in the movie remake (*Seventh Heaven*) in 1937. He featured with Donald Meek in a series of short mysteries based on S.S. Van Dine stories for Warner Bros. He was often typecast in the role of an authority figure; to wit, prison warden, judge, politician or police chief, but played various types of characters, appearing in more than three hundred movies, movie serials or television programs from the 1930s through the 1950s. As an example, he does a brief turn in robes as the judge who passes sentence on soon-to-be-racketeer James Cagney for violation of the Volstead Act in "The Roaring Twenties" (1939). Hamilton appeared as a police inspector in the John Huston film *In This Our Life* in 1942. Modern-day serial fans can see Hamilton's iconic persona already developing as Professor Gordon, the outwardly no-nonsense but secretly compassionate father of young, man-of-action Flash Gordon in *Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe* (1940). He became much more widely known when he was cast as the irascible *Daily Planet* newspaper editor Perry White in the 1950s TV classic *Adventures of Superman* (1951). After that, he appeared in television commercials for a brand of bifocals termed "Inviso No-Line Glasses". (The idea was to render invisible the seam in the lens "that tells the world you're over forty".)

Hamilton is often confused with John F. Hamilton, an American actor who made a few films, and with John Hamilton, a British actor who played juvenile roles in the UK and Europe in the 1930s.

Death

John Hamilton died on October 15, 1958 in Glendale, California of heart failure at the age of 71. He was survived by a son. He was interred in Hollywood Forever Cemetery

Selected filmography

- *Dangerous Nan McGrew* (1930) - Grant
- *Heads Up* (1930) - Capt. Whitney
- *Rare Auto and Travel Thrills* (1933)
- *Keep 'Em Rolling* (1934) - Major in France Battlefield (uncredited)
- *Stand Up and Cheer!* (1934) - Presidential Naval Aide (uncredited)
- *Parole!* (1936) - Police Inspector Hamilton (uncredited)
- *The Final Hour* (1936) - Department of Justice Chief (uncredited)
- *Two-Fisted Gentleman* (1936) - Frank Boyd
- *Craig's Wife* (1936) - Detective (uncredited)
- *Two in a Crowd* (1936) - Purdy
- *Adventure in Manhattan* (1936) - Chief of G-Men (uncredited)
- *Legion of Terror* (1936) - Cummings
- *Love Letters of a Star* (1936) - (uncredited)
- *Three Smart Girls* (1936) - Police Lieutenant (uncredited)
- *Lady from Nowhere* (1936) - Commissioner
- *A Man Betrayed* (1936) - Mr. Carlton
- *Breezing Home* (1937) - Chairman (uncredited)
- *Two Wise Maids* (1937) - Grover Wentworth
- *Her Husband Lies* (1937) - First Plainclothesman (uncredited)
- *Seventh Heaven* (1937) - Gendarme
- *I Promise to Pay* (1937) - Martin (uncredited)
- *Criminals of the Air* (1937) - Captain Wallace
- *This Is My Affair* (1937) - Warden
- *Fifty Roads to Town* (1937) - Captain Carroll
- *Married Before Breakfast* (1937) - Plainclothesman at Pier (uncredited)
- *It Could Happen to You* (1937) - Judge
- *She Had to Eat* (1937) - Police Captain (uncredited)
- *The Singing Marine* (1937) - Marine Colonel in Shanghai (uncredited)
- *Bad Guy* (1937) - Warden
- *On Such a Night* (1937) - Army Officer (uncredited)
- *The Man Who Cried Wolf* (1937) - A Judge (uncredited)
- *That Certain Woman* (1937) - American (scenes deleted)
- *One Hundred Men and a Girl* (1937) - Theatre Manager (uncredited)
- *Dangerously Yours* (1937) - Roberts (uncredited)
- *Night Club Scandal* (1937) - Governor
- *Missing Witnesses* (1937) - Police Chief Elmer H. Davis (uncredited)
- *Murder Is News* (1937) - David Corning
- *Mr. Moto's Gamble* (1938) - Philip Benton
- *Over the Wall* (1938) - Warden
- *Doctor Rhythm* (1938) - Insp. Bryce
- *Hunted Men* (1938) - Commissioner Police (uncredited)
- *You Can't Take It with You* (1938) - Kirby's Dining Guest (uncredited)
- *Boys Town* (1938) - Warden (uncredited)
- *Personal Secretary* (1938) - Truesdale (uncredited)

- *Too Hot to Handle* (1938) - Mr. Fairfield (uncredited)
- *Mr. Moto, Detective* (1938) - Simon Dayton
- *Girls on Probation* (1938) - Police Chief (uncredited)
- *I Stand Accused* (1938) - Defense Attorney Brower
- *Angels with Dirty Faces* (1938) - Police Captain (uncredited)
- *Devil's Island* (1939) - Captain of Second Convict Ship (uncredited)
- *My Son Is a Criminal* (1939) - Policeman (uncredited)
- *Secret Service of the Air* (1939) - Warden Jackson (uncredited)
- *The Spirit of Culver* (1939) - Maj. White
- *Inside Story* (1939) - Judge (uncredited)
- *Three Smart Girls Grow Up* (1939) - Harry - Conference Room Businessman (uncredited)
- *First Offenders* (1939) - Sheriff Slavin
- *Blind Alley* (1939) - Warden (uncredited)
- *Forged Passport* (1939) - Jack Rogers
- *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* (1939) - FBI Chief (uncredited)
- *Rose of Washington Square* (1939)[2] - Judge
- *It Could Happen to You* (1939) - Minor Role (uncredited)
- *Stronger Than Desire* (1939) - Second Trial Judge (uncredited)
- *The Forgotten Woman* (1939) - Dr. May
- *Waterfront* (1939) - Detective Captain (uncredited)
- *They Shall Have Music* (1939) - Detective (uncredited)
- *I Stole a Million* (1939) - Dist. Atty. Wilson
- *The Angels Wash Their Faces* (1939) - Officer Merton (uncredited)
- *Full Confession* (1939) - The Judge (uncredited)
- *Dust Be My Destiny* (1939) - First Warden (uncredited)
- *Espionage Agent* (1939) - Code Room Instructor (uncredited)
- *Smashing the Money Ring* (1939) - Night Captain
- *On Dress Parade* (1939) - A Co. Maneuvers Colonel (uncredited)
- *The Roaring Twenties* (1939) - Judge
- *Call a Messenger* (1939) - Police Lt. Nelson (uncredited)
- *Swanee River* (1939) - Doctor (uncredited)
- *Invisible Stripes* (1939) - Captain Johnson (uncredited)
- *Oh Johnny, How You Can Love* (1940) - Jonathan Archer (uncredited)
- *Brother Rat and a Baby* (1940) - Judge (uncredited)
- *Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet* (1940) - Hirsch (uncredited)
- *Three Cheers for the Irish* (1940) - Eddie - the Judge (uncredited)
- *Johnny Apollo* (1940) - Judge
- *Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe* (1940, Serial) - Professor Gordon [Chs. 1, 4]
- *Tear Gas Squad* (1940) - Chief Ferris
- *Murder in the Air* (1940) - Agent Hargrave (uncredited)
- *The Man Who Talked Too Much* (1940) - Governor (uncredited)
- *They Drive by Night* (1940) - Defense Attorney (uncredited)
- *The Golden Fleecing* (1940) - Judge (uncredited)
- *Boom Town* (1940) - McMasters' Defense Attorney (uncredited)
- *Fugitive from a Prison Camp* (1940) - Minor Role (uncredited)
- *Tugboat Annie Sails Again* (1940) - Capt. Broad
- *Lady with Red Hair* (1940) - Defense Attorney Graham (uncredited)
- *The Great Plane Robbery* (1940) - Dr. Jamison
- *Flight Command* (1940) - Pensacola Commander (uncredited)
- *Cheers for Miss Bishop* (1941) - President Watts
- *Flight from Destiny* (1941) - Judge (uncredited)
- *Meet John Doe* (1941) - Jim (uncredited)
- *Strange Alibi* (1941) - Judge in Geary Trial (uncredited)
- *World Premiere* (1941) - Bronson (uncredited)

- *Hold Back the Dawn* (1941) - Mac - Studio Receptionist (uncredited)
- *Nine Lives Are Not Enough* (1941) - Police Chief Turner (uncredited)
- *It Started with Eve* (1941) - Thomas - Headwaiter (uncredited)
- *Passage from Hong Kong* (1941) - Capt. Shouse (uncredited)
- *The Maltese Falcon* (1941) - District Attorney Bryan
- *Blues in the Night* (1941) - Doctor Treating Jigger (uncredited)
- *They Died with Their Boots On* (1941) - Colonel (uncredited)
- *I Killed That Man* (1941) - District Attorney
- *Borrowed Hero* (1941) - William Brooks
- *The Body Disappears* (1941) - Trial Judge (uncredited)
- *Pacific Blackout* (1941) - Police Captain (uncredited)
- *Always in My Heart* (1942) - Warden
- *To the Shores of Tripoli* (1942) - Gen. Gordon (scenes deleted)
- *I Was Framed* (1942) - Judge (uncredited)
- *The Great Man's Lady* (1942) - Sen. Grant
- *In This Our Life* (1942) - Police Inspector Millett
- *Dr. Broadway* (1942) - Joe - Inspector (uncredited)
- *Syncopation* (1942) - Mr. Ames (uncredited)
- *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942) - Recruiting Major (uncredited)
- *The Big Shot* (1942) - Judge
- *Wings for the Eagle* (1942) - Mr. Archer (uncredited)
- *Escape from Crime* (1942) - Rafferty
- *Enemy Agents Meet Ellery Queen* (1942) - Bracken - The Police Commissioner
- *Across the Pacific* (1942) - Court-Martial President
- *Phantom Killer* (1942) - John G. Harrison
- *Lucky Jordan* (1942) - Colonel (scenes deleted)
- *Over My Dead Body* (1942) - District Attorney Stuart Drinkwater
- *Tennessee Johnson* (1942) - State Chairman (uncredited)
- *Action in Arabia* (1944)
- *Crazy Knights* (1944)
- *Lake Placid Serenade* (1944)
- *Wilson* (1944) - Legislator in Wilson's Office (uncredited)
- *Johnny Angel* (1945)
- *Northwest Trail* (1945)
- *It Happened on Fifth Avenue* (1947)
- *Too Many Winners* (1947)
- *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1947)
- *The Babe Ruth Story* (1948)
- *Canadian Pacific* (1949)
- *The Undercover Man* (1949)
- *The Magnificent Yankee* (1950)
- *Davy Crockett, Indian Scout* (1950)
- *Inside Straight* (1951)
- *The Pace That Thrills* (1952) - Sour Puss
- *Target* (1952) - Bailey
- *Cripple Creek* (1952) - San Francisco Postmaster (uncredited)
- *The Rose Bowl Story* (1952) - Dr. Lansing (uncredited)
- *Million Dollar Mermaid* (1952) - Skeptic in Rector's Restaurant (uncredited)
- *Never Wave at a WAC* (1953) - Sen. Holbrook (uncredited)
- *Marshal of Cedar Rock* (1953) - Stover - Prison Warden
- *Jack McCall, Desperado* (1953) - Col. Cornish
- *Iron Mountain Trail* (1953) - Circuit Judge
- *Run for the Hills* (1953) - Mr. Harvester
- *So This Is Love* (1953) - Charlie, Show Backer (uncredited)
- *El Paso Stampede* (1953) - Rancher White (uncredited)

- *Donovan's Brain* (1953) - Mr. MacNish, Bank Manager (uncredited)
- *Man of Conflict* (1953) - Cornwall
- *Sitting Bull* (1954) - Clifton Staley (uncredited)
- *The Night of the Hunter* (1955) - Townsman Who Greets Rachel (uncredited)
- *Bobby Ware Is Missing* (1955) - Stearns - Goodwin's Associate (uncredited)
- *Chicago Confidential* (1957) - Attorney Emory Morgan (uncredited)
- *Outcasts of the City* (1958)
- *Adventures of Superman* (1952-1958, TV Series) - Perry White

References

1. United States Census records for 1900, Franklin County, Pennsylvania
2. *Great Movie Musicals on DVD* - A Classic Movie Fan's Guide (https://books.google.com/books?id=GP7GAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA65&lpg=PA65&dq=I%27m+always+chasing+rainbows+alice+faye+Rose+of+Washington+square+DVD&source=bl&ots=hGiISnXQ-_&sig=_YqFGxqYLP6Bo7h9Go5yDsUDjuA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiP78v2x5TfAhXJKGMKHcuLCK8Q6AEILzAB#v=onepage&q=I'm%20always%20chasing%20rainbows%20alice%20faye%20Rose%20of%20Washington%20square%20DVD&f=false) by John Howard Reid - Google search with book preview

External links

- John Hamilton on IMDb
- John Hamilton at the Internet Broadway Database

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